

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 195953
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 HA-05 SS-15 /032 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:JCOVEY:SMB
APPROVED BY NEA/IAI:DAKORN
H:RFLATEN
HA:EJONES

-----080308 031845Z /47

O R 031833Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195953

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, JO, IS (AYASH, SALEH SAID ABOU)

SUBJECT: DEATH OF SALEH SAID ABOU AYASH

REF: A) JERUSALEM 1991, B) STATE 186201

1. WE WILL BE OBLIGED TO REPLY TO CONGRESSMAN SARASIN'S INQUIRY ABOUT AYASH AND TO RELATE SUBSTANTIALLY WHAT CONGEN JERUSALEM HAS REPORTED, OF COURSE WITHOUT MENTIONING CONGEN OR REVEALING SOURCE OF STORY, AND WITH APPROPRIATE CAVEAT ABOUT OUR BEING UNABLE TO VOUCH FOR ACCURACY. IF IT GETS PUBLICITY, THE STORY COULD BE EMBARRASSING FOR THE ISRAELIS. WE WOULD MUCH PREFER TO GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT, AS THIS COULD CHANGE THE PICTURE CONSIDERABLY. BUT SINCE THE PERSON IN QUESTION IS NOT AN AMERICAN CITIZEN OR EVEN THE RELATIVE OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, WE HAVE NO GROUNDS ON WHICH TO TELL ISRAELIS THEY SHOULD SUPPLY INFORMATION. IT IS ESSENTIALLY A MATTER WHETHER THEY JUDGE THEY HAVE AN INTEREST IN DOING
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SO.

2. BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT FOR EMBASSY TO CONSIDER RAISI;G MATTER PROMPTLY WITH MFA, EXPLAINING THAT WE HAVE AN INQUIRY FROM A CONGRESSMAN REGARDING MR. AYASH'S DETENTION AND WILL BE OBLIGED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AT OUR DISPOSAL (EMBASSY MAY PASS ON

SUBSTANCE OF PARA 2 JERUSALEM 1991 BUT SHOULD NOT MENTION
CONGEN OR REVEAL SOURCE). IF ISRAELIS HAVE A DIFFERENT
ACCOUNT OR HAVE MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES TO CITE, WE
WOULD BE HAPPY TO MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO THE CONGRESSMAN.

3. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP ACTION YOU INTEND TO TAKE.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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